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EXCISE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

FROM : Amembassy TAIPEI

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DESP. NO. 162 DATE September 21, 1959

REF : WEEKAS #51, 1957 & #3, 1958; USARMA #C-6-58, February 21, 1958; FCT's 5554, 5584, 5696, 6172 (December 5, 1958); and TIME Magazine, September 7, 1959.

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	INFO OTHER

ACTION: IRC-8
REC'D: 9-25
INFO: RMAR-2 FE-4 EUR-5
OTHER: CIA-15 OSD-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-1

SUBJECT: The Case of Colonel CHANG Ch'un-sheng (1728/2504/3932)

[redacted] it is true, as TIME of September 7, 1959, reports, that Colonel CHANG Ch'un-sheng, a former officer of the Chinese Communist Army who defected to the Republic of China in December 1957, has been executed by the Chinese Army. However, TIME's report that Chang "had been unmasked as a double agent passing secrets to the mainland" appears to be questionable. [redacted] reports that the Colonel was tried on a charge of conspiracy to lead a revolt, found guilty and executed during December 1958. Enclosure No. 1 hereto is a copy of a short news item in a local English language daily reporting that the spokesman of the GRC Ministry of National Defense stated on September 4, 1959, that he knew nothing about the reports of Colonel Chang's passing.

BACKGROUND:

On December 17, 1957, Lt. Colonel Chang Ch'un-sheng, then reportedly Deputy Commander of the Chinese Communist 63 AAA Division, reached Kinmen in a fishing boat from the mainland and defected to the GRC forces. MND interrogated the officer and apparently established his bona fides, although some quarters on Taiwan had doubts at the time that Lt. Colonel Chang might not be all that he claimed to be. At a public ceremony on January 14, 1958, the Chief of Staff, MND, commissioned Lt. Colonel Chang as a full Colonel in the GRC Army and assigned him as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese Army's Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command. The appointment and a bonus of NT$50,000 were awarded under a presidential order. Press coverage of the event on Taiwan was extensive, making good use of the propaganda value of the defection. U. S. authorities had access to Colonel Chang and were permitted to question him [redacted] at length.

It now appears that as time passed Colonel Chang found it difficult to adjust to his new situation and he became increasingly restive and frustrated. Eventually the Colonel "blew his top" as Chinese military authorities have described his actions. He stole guns and ammunition from the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command and in late October he tried to organize and arm a few cohorts to accompany him to the mountains of Central Taiwan, there to rally the people to revolt.

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FILED
OCT 7-1959

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
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It was then that he was apprehended in Taipei by GRC military police. After a prompt investigation and trial by the Chinese Army, Colonel Chang was put to death in December 1958. At the time [redacted] judged that Colonel Chang's actions did not represent the execution of a mission assigned by the Chinese Communists but were more likely the result of frustrations he encountered on Taiwan. 1 3(c)

[redacted] 3(1) (6) and (c)

For the Ambassador:

Alexander L. Peaslee
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:
Mat on China News item of 9-4-59, "Spokesman Mum on Defected Red Colonel Story".

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CHINA NEWS - September 4, 1958

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SPOKESMAN MUM ON DEFECTED RED COLONEL STORY

Military spokesman Rear Admiral Liu Hoh-tu said today he will inquire into foreign reports about the alleged arrest and execution of Colonel Chang Chun-sheng, a defected Communist, and let the press know the facts later.

The current issue of Time magazine said Tuesday that Chang, a former lieutenant colonel in the Chinese Communist army, had been executed as a spy.

Admiral Liu said he knew nothing about the reports. However, he said he will make inquiries.

Chang, according to an official announcement earlier last year, arrived at Kinmen on December 17, 1957, in a fishing boat. He identified himself as a deputy commander of a Communist anti-aircraft artillery division.

On January 14, 1958, the ex-Communist was given the rank of a full colonel and appointed deputy chief of staff of the anti-aircraft command of the Chinese Air Force. He was given a cash gift of NT$50,000. The ceremony took place at the local Kuo Kuang Theater.

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